Sept 3, 1944

Dear Girls

1/

Mail is coming in at last. It is coming straight from home ~~to~~ & it takes about 10 days. Haven't received any that went to France as yet. Got a letter from Annie yesterday & one from Em & Aunt Madge today. As you ~~probably~~ know I was hit in the eye about a week before getting shot in the leg. Was operated on the eye 6 days ago. Will try & give you the low down on ~~just~~ what happened but is hoping it gets by the censor's.

On the 22 of July we were getting shelled by the Germans one hit pretty close

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to me. I was hit by the ground a piece of a tree that was flying by that scraped my eye. I went back to an Aid Station & they put four stiches in it. Back up to the front & went patch over my eye & all.

On the 24th of July we were relieved until the 26. On the next day we had quite a battle with the Jerries but we took our objective after a tough battle in which we lost a number of men. Our machine gun squad of which I am second gunner did not lose a man that day. Our squad has 5 men to it & we could not afford to lose a single man. We

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have to carry about 60 pounds & really have a time of it. The next day we took off after the German again. We did not hit them until about 8 o'clock that night. We had been on the trail for 10 hours they sure did give us a battle after battling with them for about 1 hour, our machine gun squad was told to cover the Company while they withdrew. We were the last 5 men to withdraw. Three of us got shot by a German machine gunner. I was laying out

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in a open field + those bevers
sure were trying to hit me
again. I guess if it had
not been for my buddy
Frank Boose I might not
be writing this letter today
He crawled out under enemy
fire + drug me to safety
The medics were so busy
that he had to doctor me up
himself. Sure do owe a
lot to him. We lost quite a
good many of our Company that
day. This all happened on the
29th. I was in a hospital
in France 7 days. I was

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flown back to England on August 6. The doctor here said that a minor operation would have to be performed on my eye. They operated a week ago + the eye is better than ever. My leg + fingers are fine now. am up walking around like I had never been hit.

There sure must be a lot of packages that have not arrived yet. I still have some coming for my birthday but I've been told to ask for something so please send some candy.

FROM FANNY FARMER CANDY SHOPS INC. SPECIAL 486 19TH ST. BOSTON MASS.

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Thanks a lot. Tell Em I sure
am sorry that Roy Hiford died
not ~~[illegible]~~ two years but she
always has good old Bartlett
x Pales to fall back on. Please
tell Nell to reserve a couple
of tickets for 1945's opener.
Look's like it all be over by then

Will sign off for this morning
Hope to hear from you all
soon. Just came back from church

Love to All
"Dick"